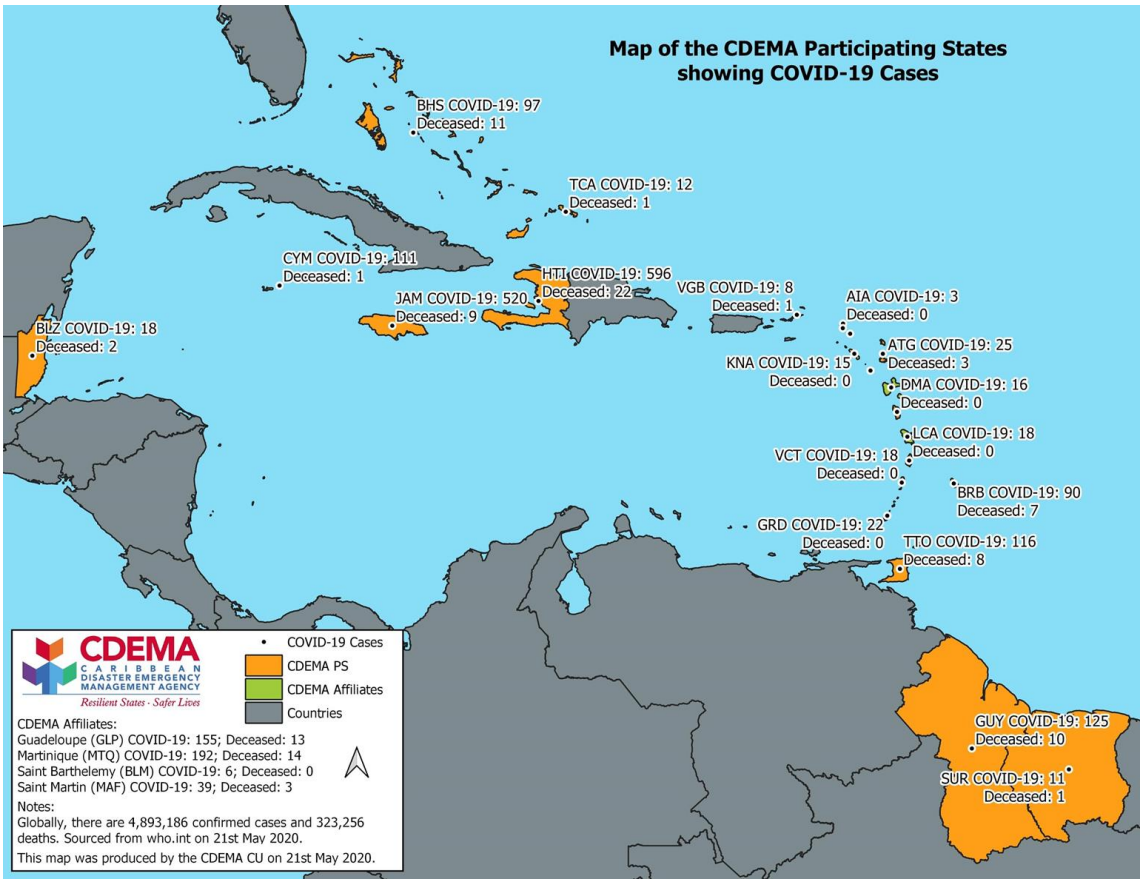
COVID-19 OUTBREAK IN CDEMA PARTICIPATING STATES

SITUATION REPORT No. 11

AS OF 8:00 PM ON 21 MAY, 2020

Restrictions are gradually being lifted among CDEMA Participating States amidst ongoing management of the COVID-19 pandemic



COVID-19 Regional Surveillance Update for 21st May - The George Alleyne Chronic Disease Research Centre, U.W.I.

- Among the 20 CARICOM Member States and Associate Members, there have been 436 new confirmed cases and 5 new confirmed deaths in the week to Thursday May 21st.
- Most of these cases were identified in Haiti (362). The remaining 74 cases were reported from The Cayman Islands (26), Jamaica (20), Guyana (12), Barbados (5), Bermuda (4), Bahamas (3), and with single cases reported in The British Virgin Islands, Grenada, St Vincent and The Grenadines, and Suriname.
- In the past 24 hours there have been 11 new confirmed cases and no new confirmed deaths.
- With 596 confirmed cases, 362 of these in the past week, Haiti remains the outbreak hotspot among the CARICOM members.
- The major outbreak in neighbouring Dominican Republic (13,477 cases, 2,281 in the past week, 446 deaths) compounds the situation in Haiti.

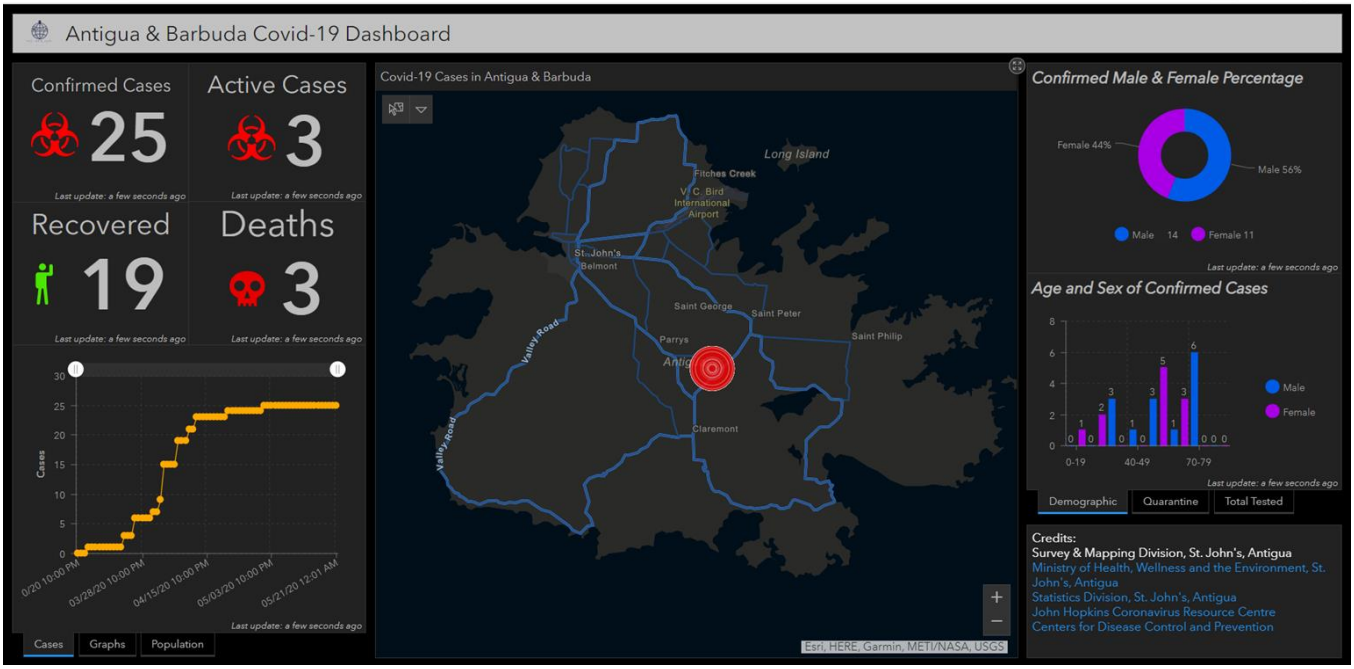
Updates from CDEMA Participating States

ANGUILLA – Department of Disaster Management (DDM)

- Currently there are no active confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Anguilla.
- Ports remain closed for passenger movements until at least May 31.
- Stakeholder Economic Development Sessions are underway from 18-22 May, 2020.
- Although some restrictions were relaxed on April 29 restrictions relating to gatherings will remain in force until at least May 31.
- Gatherings of more than 25 persons, in public or private are prohibited except the following:
    - When attending churches, weddings and funerals
    - Assembling for the purpose of work
    - Attending schools
    - Attending company meetings
- Notwithstanding the above, this means no person shall host or attend the following:
    - public parties on the beach or mainland
    - recreational or competitive sporting event
    - Meeting of fraternal society
    - Private or social clubs or civic associations
    - Any other social event in a public place other than detailed above
- Further information on the COVID-19 response in Anguilla is available at https://beatcovid19.ai/news/
- The **Ministry of Health & Social Development** has set up a hotline at **1-264-476-7627 or 476-SOAP** for persons seeking general information about or feel they have been exposed to **COVID-19**. Another partner in the fight against **COVID-19** and other infectious diseases is the **Health Authority of Anguilla**, who can be reached at **1-264-497-2551**

Updates from CDEMA Participating States

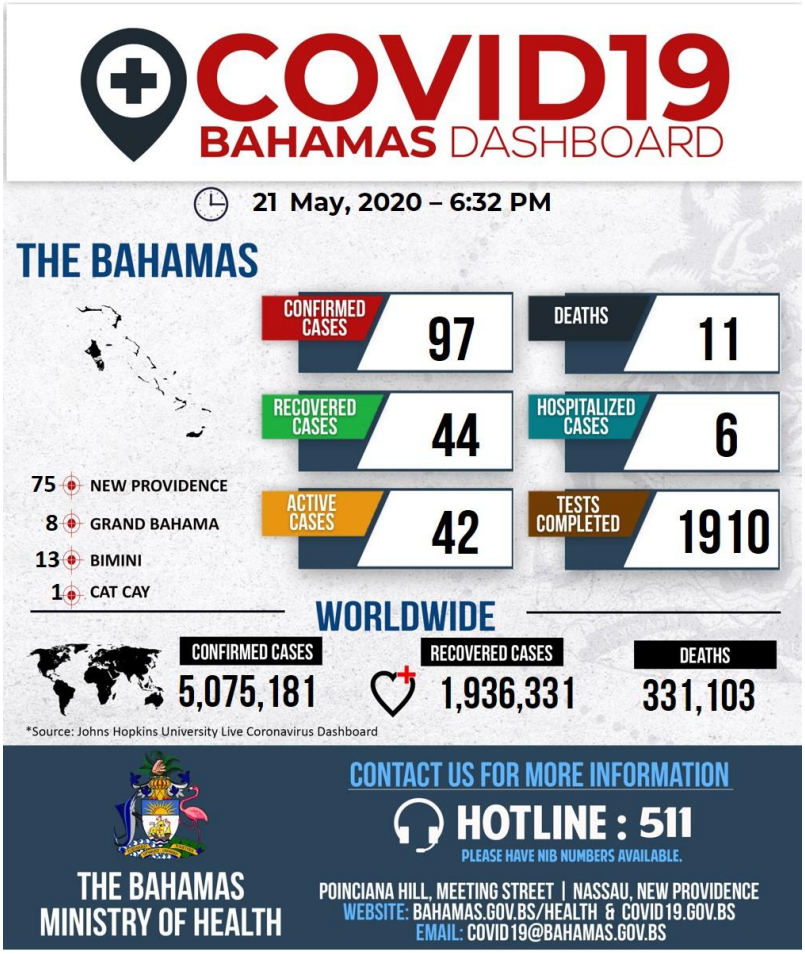
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA – National Office of Disaster Services (NODS)



- There have been no new positive COVID-19 cases for the past 18 days. The three cases in recovery will soon be discharged.
- On Saturday 16 May 2020 over EC$4 million dollars worth of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) including masks, surgical gowns, thermometers, gloves and face shields were donated to the Ministry of Health by a local charity, The Calvin Ayre Foundation.
- Schools have opened at the fifth form level further to the completion of a sanitization programme executed by the Ministry of Works, the Board of Education and the Safe Schools team. All schools have been outfitted with hand sanitizing stations and hand washing facilities have been installed at the entrance of each classroom.
- The VC Bird International Airport will reopen June 1 and an American Airlines flight will arrive on June 4. Special arrangements are being put in place to ensure the safety of locals and visitors alike. Visitors will be accommodated at all-inclusive hotels.
- Churches, salons and barber shops have reopened based on inspections by the Environmental Health Unit of the Ministry of Health.
- The Government continues to look at steps to reopen other businesses. On June 1, the Government will move towards opening all businesses providing that they adhere to the protocols including for social distancing.
- The Government Emergency Food Programme is going well and the private sector and the Red Cross are greatly assisting in the fight against COVID-19.

Updates from CDEMA Participating States

THE BAHAMAS – National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)

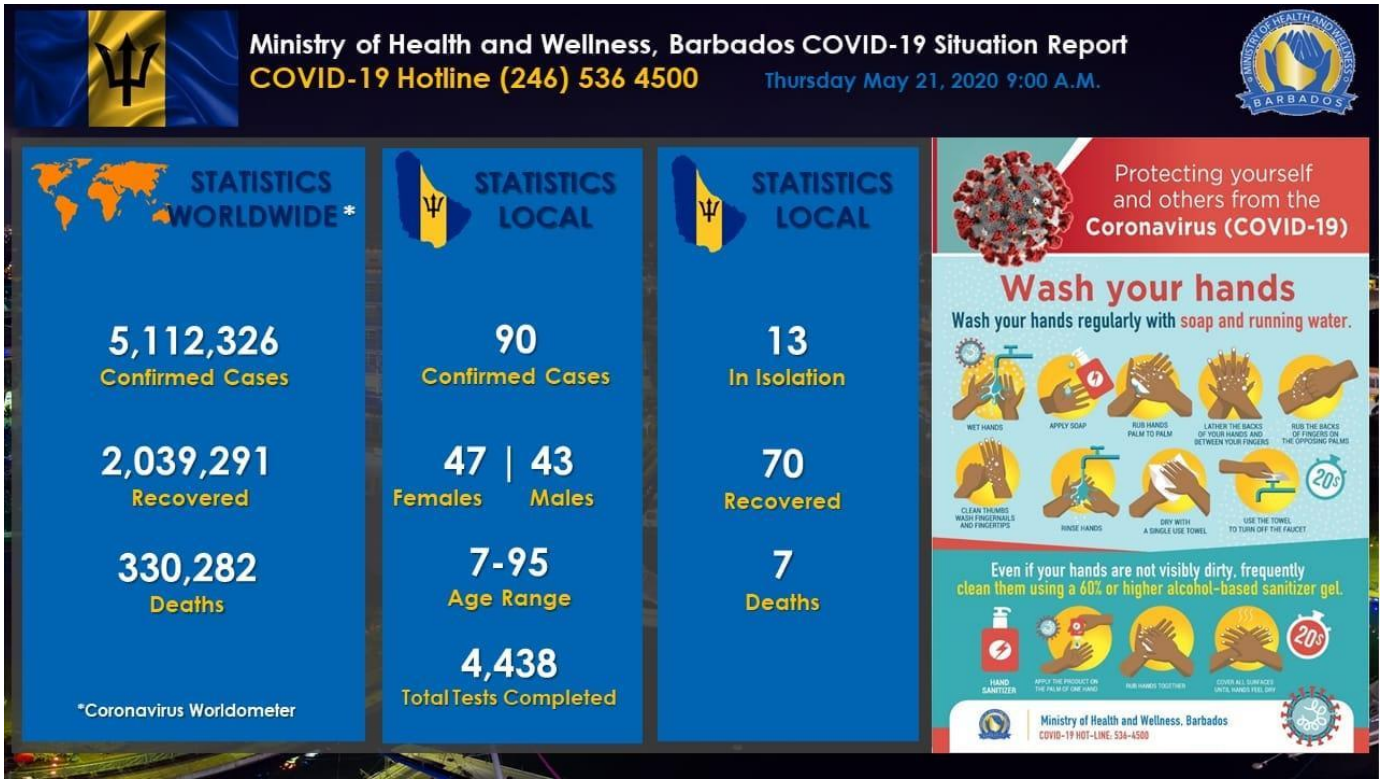


- As at 20 May, there is one (1) additional confirmed case of COVID- 19. This brings the total number of confirmed cases in The Bahamas to ninety-seven (97).
- There are 476 persons in quarantine.
- From 22-23 May, two repatriation flights will be arriving in Nassau from Florida with a total of 215 passengers. Before boarding, passengers must give evidence that they have tested negative for COVID-19. All arrivals will be quarantined at a Government quarantine facility or at home. Fifty-nine (59) persons will disembark in Grand Bahama before the flight arrives in Nassau.
- From 18 May- 29 May the island of Bimini, is on lock-down. Of the 2000 persons who live on that island, 13 of them have tested positive for COVID-19.
- The Government is considering reopening inter island travel. If this is proceeds, before travelling prospective passengers will be required to make a request through the Ministry of Health, who will assess their status and issue a card allowing/ denying them travel on any air or sea craft into any of the other islands throughout the Bahamas.
- Curfew remains in effect from 9pm - 5am. Total lockdown is effect on the weekends from Friday through Monday until the end of May.

Updates from CDEMA Participating States

BARBADOS – Department of Emergency Management (DEM)

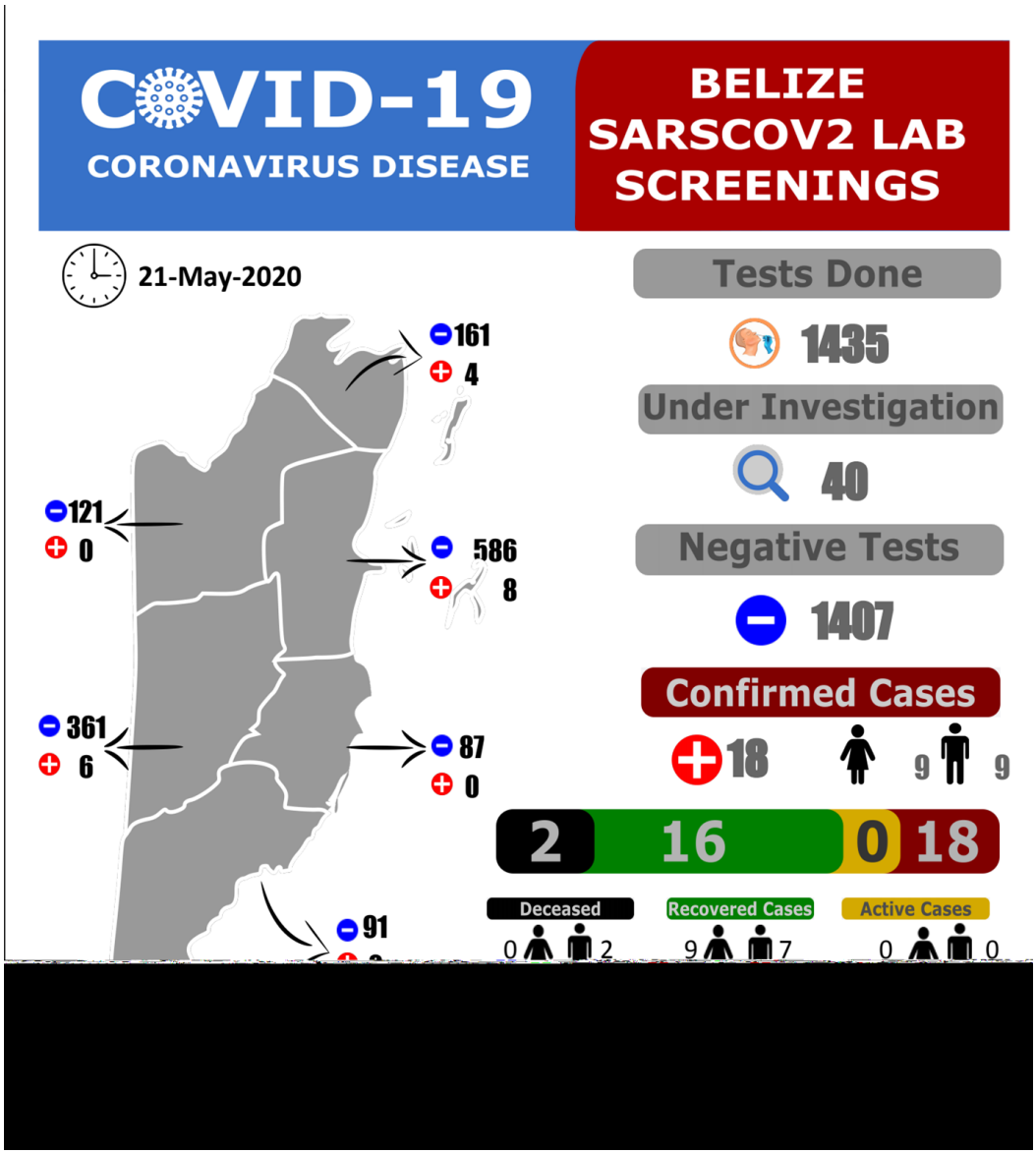
- On 18 May, the Government of Barbados issued Directive #5 which is in effect from 18-31 May. The Directive is available at: https://gisbarbados.gov.bb/blog/emergency-management-covid-19-curfew-no-5-directive-2020/
- The curfew remains in effect from 8pm – 5am.
- Some restrictions were lifted for example with respect to access to the beach, salons, and barber shops.
- The public service has resumed their hours of operation from 8:30am – 4:30pm.
- A detailed *workplace cleaning and disinfecting COVID-19 protocol* has been developed for the public service, and it is already in use by some Government departments.
- Businesses that are allowed to re-open must adhere to protocols given by the Ministry of Health.



Updates from CDEMA Participating States

Belize – National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO)

- As at 20 May, Belize is the only country in mainland Central America that has zero active cases. All countries in the Central America region continue to report increasing numbers except for Costa Rica and Nicaragua. Random testing continues in Belize.
- COVID-19 controlled repatriation is underway for displaced Belizeans abroad.
- Further details on policies in effect in Belize may be accessed at: https://www.facebook.com/Belizehealth



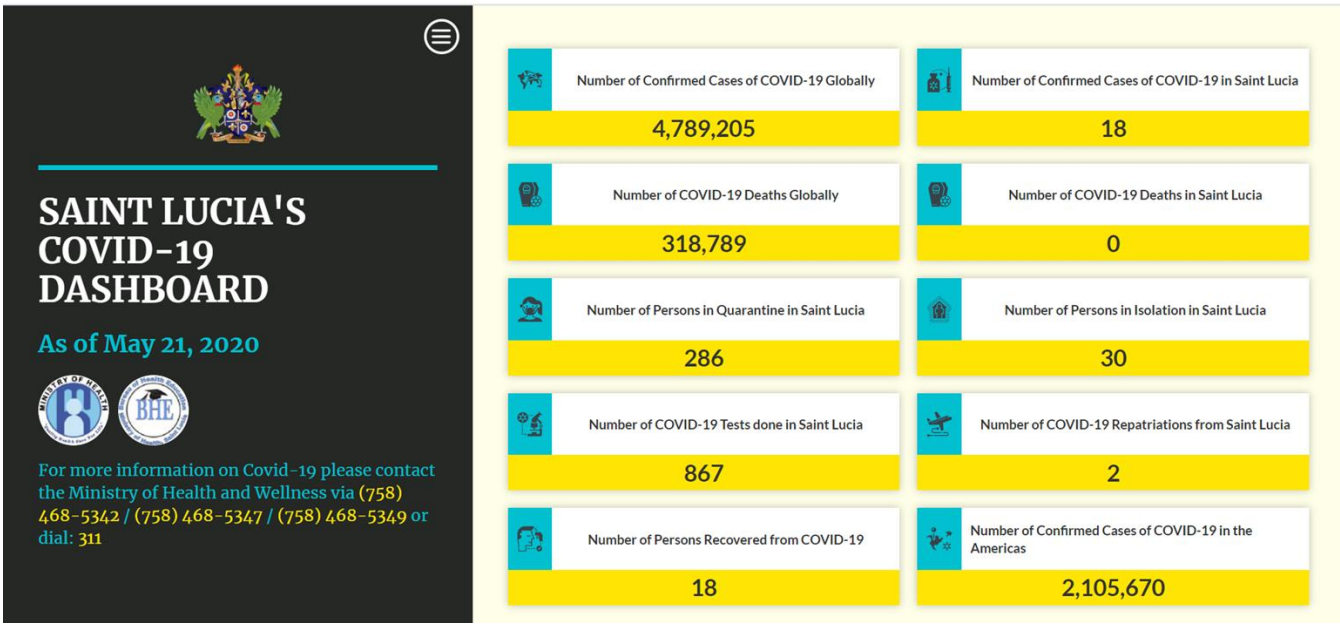
Updates from CDEMA Participating States

ST. KITTS & NEVIS – National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)

- St. Kitts and Nevis no longer has any active cases of COVID-19 following the announcement on Monday (May 18) that the last of the 15 confirmed cases has recovered.

Updates from CDEMA Participating States

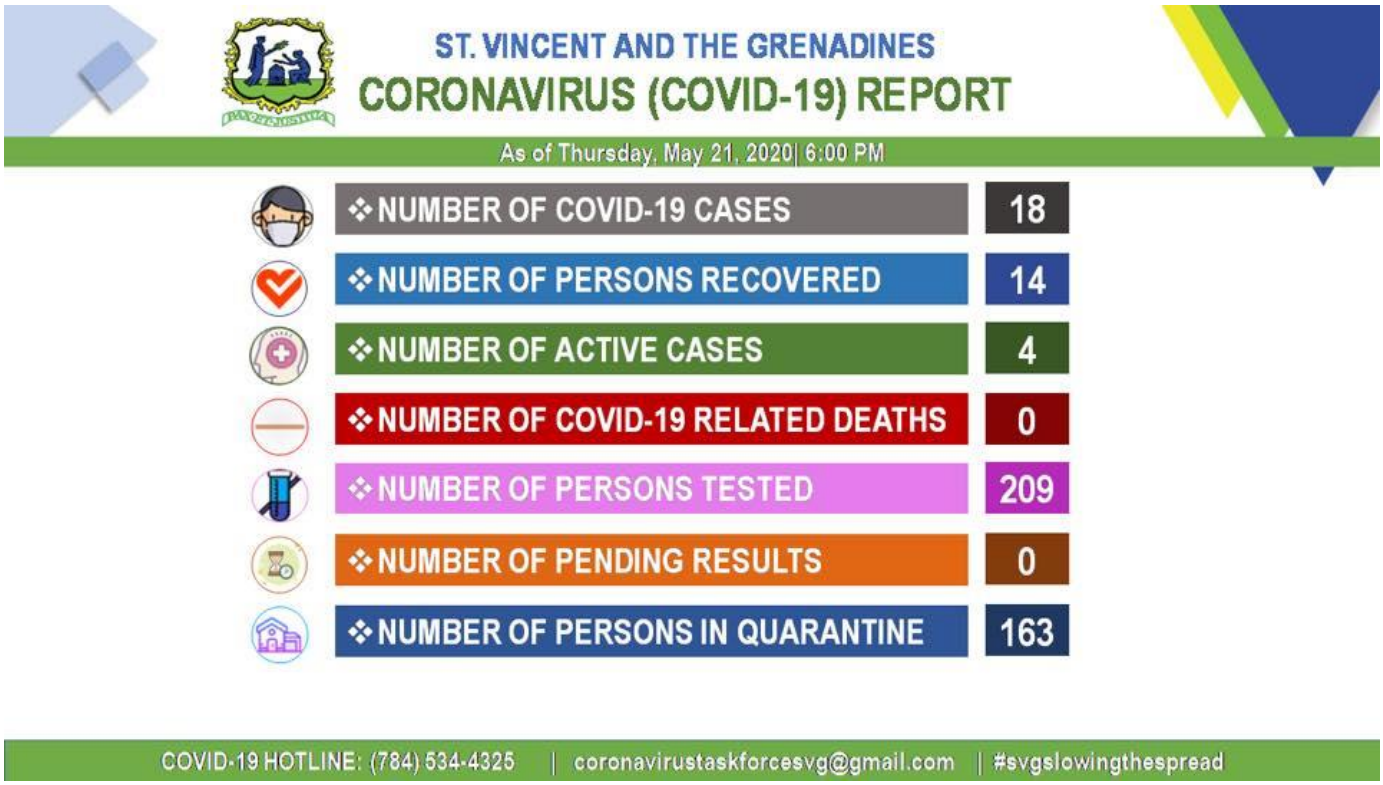
SAINT LUCIA – National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO)



- Persons in quarantine are those who have returned from the cruise ships
- Discussing opening borders from the June 4th.
- A presentation was made on Friday May 15th for the reopening of the country and all businesses have been given the green light but adhering to all the protocols that have been established
- The protocol for shelter operations has been developed
- Completed 75 % inspection of shelters and a report is being prepared for Cabinet
- Revision and updating of relevant legislation are being considered in light of COVID-19 and in preparation for the Hurricane Season

Updates from CDEMA Participating States

ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES – National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO)



- Started repatriation from cruise ships over a week ago and those persons are currently in quarantine; 356 cruise workers returning next week on Royal Caribbean
- CARPHA has agreed to support testing of Cruise Line workers who are returning to St.Vincent and the Grenadines
- 22 Vincentians returned from The BVI and are currently in Government facility and home quarantine
- 30 Vincentian students returned from Jamaica and another are scheduled to return on May 21st
- Schools for fifth and sixth form students will reopen on May 25th. They would have gone through the requisite guidelines from the Ministry of Health to ensure that hygiene stations are in place for the students. The hours will be reduced to 9am – 2pm
- Identifying additional shelters in communities with adequate spacing capacity
- Revising shelter management guidelines in light of the COVID-19 context
- Ensuring that all warehouses are ready and are self-sufficient in preparation for the hurricane season

Updates from CDEMA Participating States

SURINAME - National Coordination Center For Disaster Relief (NCCR)

- In consultation with the interest groups and the market master, the exhibitors will be given the opportunity to clean their stand on Thursday 21 May 2020. They will therefore receive instructions on how to serve the customer in accordance with the COVID-19 prevention measures in the future. "All other persons who sold vegetables along the streets are no longer allowed to do that. They have to sell their products within the market," said Mike Nerkust, District Commissioner for Paramaribo Southwest.
- The casinos may be opened again from Wednesday 20 May 2020 until 10pm, subject to the COVID-19 rules. The Minister of HI&T and the district commissioner of Paramaribo have had discussions with the casino holders. It is very important that job security is guaranteed. The sector has also made its own proposals on how to apply the COVID-19 measures.
- Some restaurants that believe they meet the COVID-19 standards have already opened their doors. The management team is open to discussions with the unions of the bus holders and looks forward to their proposals.

1

Active Cases

11

Tested Positive

796

In Quarantine

9

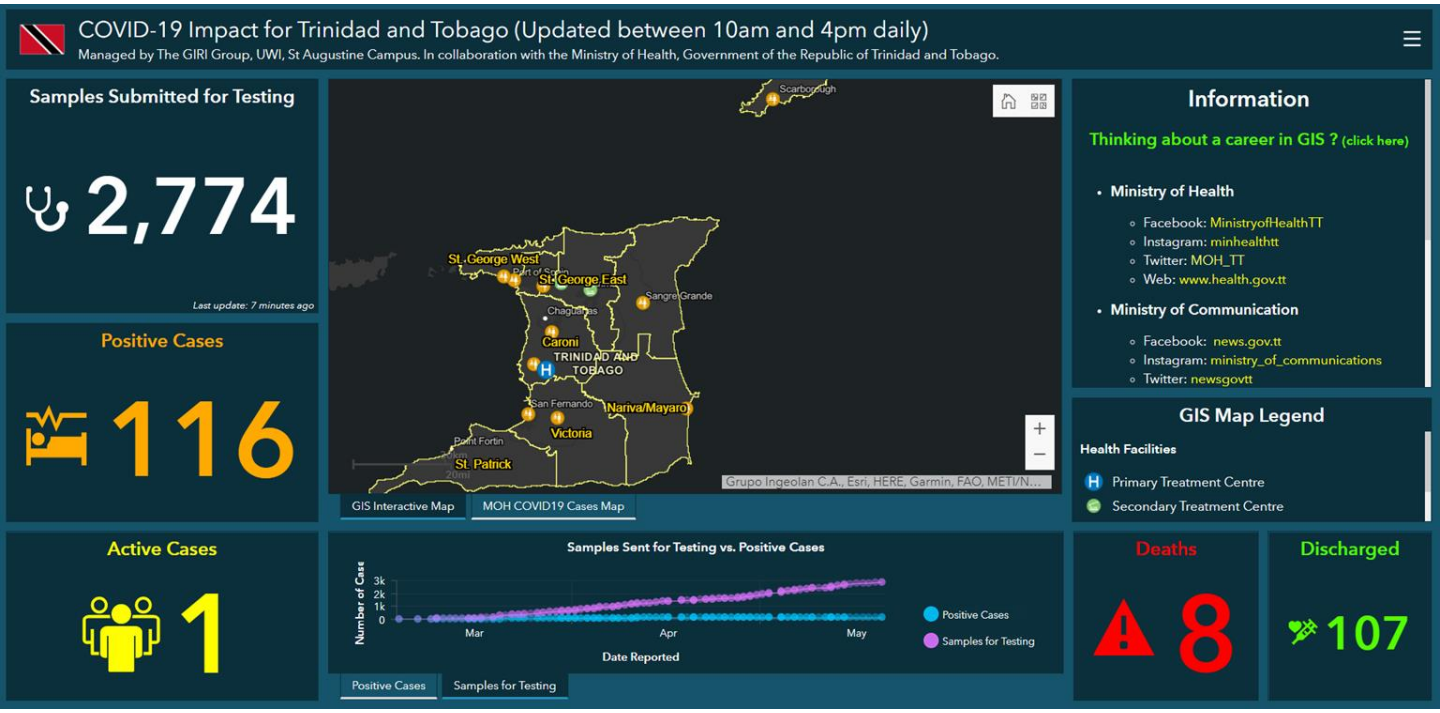
Recovered

1

Deaths

Updates from CDEMA Participating States

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO – Office of Disaster Preparedness & Management (ODPM)

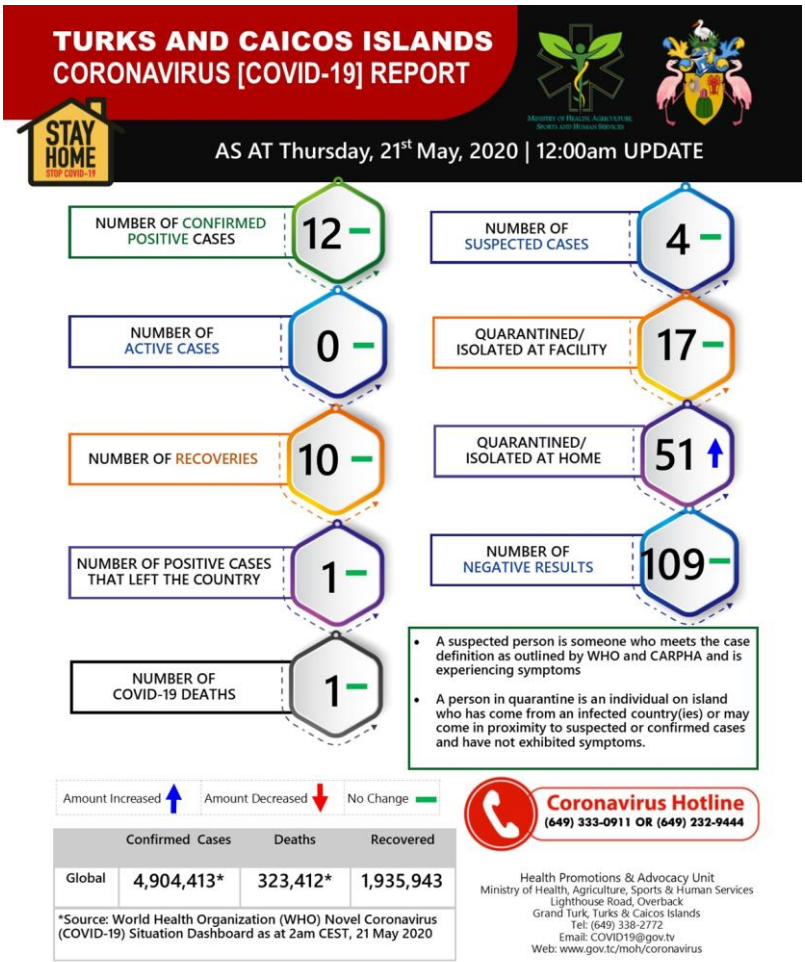


- To date, there have been 2,774 samples sent for testing, of which there were 2,362 unique patient tests completed.
- Of the samples tested, there are 116 positive confirmed COVID-19 cases.
- 107 persons have been discharged from quarantine.
- There have been 8 deaths due to COVID-19.
- There is currently 1 active case.
- The ODPM is continuing stakeholder preparedness for the hurricane season and there was a tabletop exercise scheduled for Friday May 22 at 10 o'clock. The number of stakeholders will be increased and brought in for this exercise.
- One significant change was made where Phase 2 of the reopening process was rescheduled to May 21 from its original scheduled start of May 23. This allows for the operation of the entire manufacturing and construction sector, laundry and dry cleaning services, and mechanics and tyre shops.
- Phase 3 will be scheduled for June 7-20, however, Phases 4, 5 and 6 will be scheduled and announced thereafter.
- The borders are still scheduled to be reopened in Phase 6.
- For further information on the phases, please go to http://news.gov.tt/content/adjustments-be-made-covid-19-public-health-ordinance-regulations#.XryHRURKgqM

Updates from CDEMA Participating States

TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS – Department of Disaster Management & Emergencies (DDME)

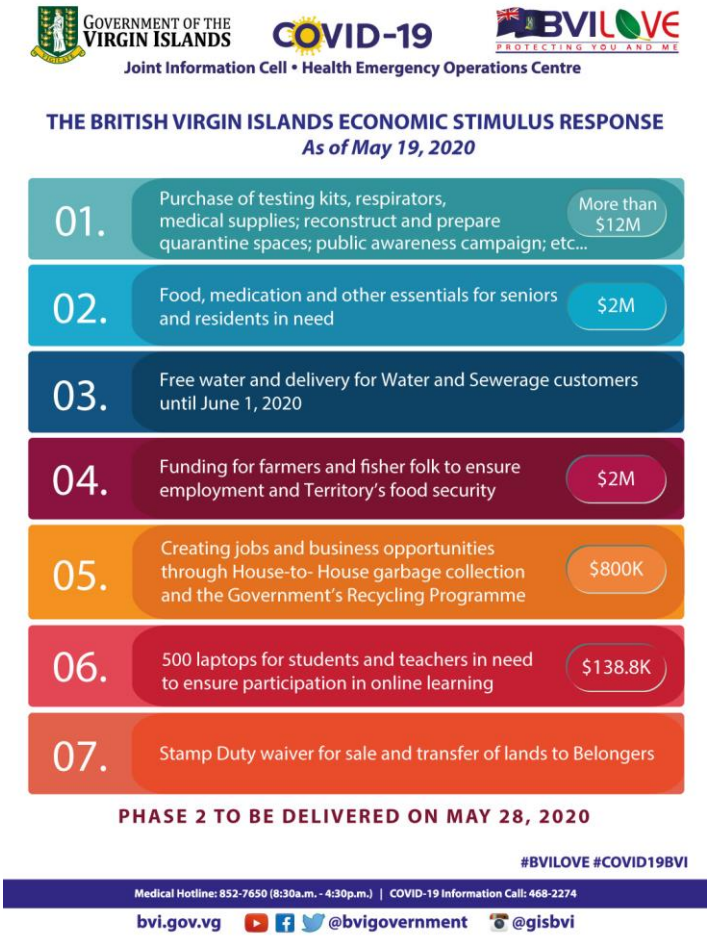
- There are no new confirmed cases recorded; with the total number of confirmed positive cases remaining at twelve (12).
- There are currently ten (10) recoveries; no active cases; and one (1) death.
- There are four (4) suspected cases, which are all TCI residents experiencing relevant symptoms with no history of contact with confirmed cases. Samples have been collected and sent for testing.
- The number of persons in quarantine/observation has increased to 68.
- The increase in quarantine/observation numbers is due to the new suspected case and their contacts, as well as asymptomatic persons being added to quarantine/observation status. To date, a total of 614 individuals have been released from quarantine/observation status.
- To date, there have been a total of 121 test results, with 109 confirmed to be negative and 12 confirmed to be positive.



Updates from CDEMA Participating States

VIRGIN ISLANDS (UK) – Department of Disaster Management (DDM)

- As at May 20th, 151 persons have been tested; 8 confirmed cases; 1 active case; 6 persons recovered and 1 death.
- There has been a significant increase in-house testing capacity through a donation from the UK- Public Health of England as BVI is looking to reopen their borders in June.
- Since the end of the 24 hour curfew, essential businesses have reopened; this system will be re-evaluated every two weeks.
- Hotels, sporting facilities, night clubs and other entertainment facilities are still closed.
- Any business that reopens has to be periodically checked and a *holder of certification* needs to be displayed publicly.
- A task force has been established to periodically check and to ensure that the necessary physical distancing and sanitization stations are in place.
- The current curfew expires May 24th, 7pm – 6am, thereafter Cabinet will advice on changes.
- The Government is undertaking a Knowledge Attitude and Practice (KAP) study through the national epidemiologist towards gaining an understanding of the public's attitudes and practices due to the changes associated with COVID-19.
- As at 15 May, limited visitation at the Dr. D. Orlando Smith Hospital has been reinstated as the BVI Health Services Authority continues to institute measures to reduce the impact of COVID-1



- As of 18 May, residents can access primary care services at the BVIHSA community clinics around the Territory including prescription drop offs and pickups.These Primary healthcare facilities were closed following the institution of curfews by the Government in response to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).

Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) Actions

REGIONAL LEVEL ENGAGEMENTS & COORDINATION

- CDEMA continues to lead the multi sectoral coordination in support of the CARICOM technical lead for health, CARPHA.
- The Regional Coordination Centre is activated.
- The CDEMA CU continues to liaise with the CARICOM regional institutions towards supporting the strengthening and continuity planning as well as regional level coordination.
- The CDEMA CU also continues to work closely with the CARICOM Secretariat, CARPHA and PAHO towards strengthening of the Health sector level coordination and readiness
- The Regional Protocol designed to support CARICOM States in their response to COVID-19 has been finalized with the support of Regional Institutions of CARICOM and submitted to the CARICOM Secretariat.
- To support country response, COVID-19 Assessment and Analysis, modeling and surveillance products developed by University of the West Indies, through the George Alleyne Chronic Disease Research Centre are available via the CDEMA website .
- The Logistics and Procurement Cell is working towards strengthening the regional logistics arrangements and the supply chain in the region.The Integrated Regional Logistics Hub is being established in Barbados to facilitate the reception and onward movement of emergency supplies. This cell includes partners such as the World Food Programme (WFP).
- The National Disaster Offices are either on high alert and have activated their National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOCS) where there are confirmed cases. In this regard, the Regional Response Mechanism (RRM) continues to be on alert should the need arise for support from any Participating State.
- The latest updates on the COVID-19 pandemic in the region can be accessed from the CARPHA's website www.carpha.org
- CDEMA and the Regional Response Mechanism partners will continue to monitor the situation and will provide updates as appropriate.

COVID-19 Regional Institutions Resources

Please visit the CDEMA COVID-19 Webpage for more information from Participating States:
https://www.cdema.org/covid19

Please visit the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) website for their latest SITREP:
https://www.carpha.org/Portals/0/Documents/COVID%20Situation%20Reports/Situation%20Report%2045%20-%20May13,%202020.pdf

For updated technical guidelines and laboratory updates visit:
https://carpha.org/What-We-Do/Public-Health/Novel-Coronavirus

Please see below links to access data from the UWI George Alleyne Chronic Disease Research Centre - COVID-19 Assessment and Analysis, modeling and surveillance products:

https://ln2.sync.com/dl/6d7e87cd0/7csmvhz3-hp5bxcpn-hjs5th4w-n4eqqtd2
https://tinyurl.com/uwi-covid19-surveillance

Please access the CARICOM COVID-19 Dashboard: https://caricom.org/.